GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:538
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any provisions for Scrutiny of distorted reporting by the media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government including authorizing the Press Council of India to check contents published in the Print Media?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (ADDITIONAL CHARGE) (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (d): The Government's policy is to uphold the freedom of the Press. Pursuant to this policy, the Government does not interfere in the functioning of the media.In so far as Electronic Media (TV Channels) are concerned, there is no pre-censorship of the content telecast to TV Channels. However, all the TV Channels (including News Channels) are required to adhere to Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. Further, this Ministry has constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee to look into the specific complaints against violation of the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. Action is taken as per the provisions of the Act whenever any specific violation is found.

As regards print media, the Government has set up the Press Council of India, an autonomous body headed by a Chairman and 28 members, including Members of Parliament. The Council has laid down the Norms of Journalistic Conduct that cover the principles and ethics with regard to journalism as also guidelines on reporting of specific issues of public and national importance. If it is considered necessary it can warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, news agency, the editor or journalist or disapprove their conduct.